

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of selecting samples for presentation on an output device from a sequence of stored media samples, comprising the steps of:

presenting a first sample retrieved from a current position in the sequence on the output device,

receiving position information from a pointing device,

translating the received position information into direction and magnitude information,

retrieving a second sample stored at a position in the sequence that is offset from the current position by an amount related to the magnitude information and in the direction indicated by the direction information, and

presenting the second sample on the output device.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the samples in the sequence are each stored images, wherein the output device comprises a display device, and wherein the steps of presenting the first and second samples respectively include displaying first and second one of the images on the display device.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the samples in

the sequence are each stored sound samples, wherein the output device comprises an audio device and wherein the steps of presenting the first and second samples respectively each include playing the first and second audio samples on the audio device.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of translating the received position information translates the position indicated by the pointing device into a playback speed for successively playing back samples in the sequence to implement a shuttle control.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said step of translating further includes the step of only translating the received position into a playback speed if the received position falls above a predetermined threshold.

6. The method of claim 4 further including the step of limiting the playback speed.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of translating the received position information translates the position indicated by the pointing device into a sample position within the sequence to implement a jog control.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of translating moderates the effect of changes in

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velocity of the pointing device on the rate of playback of the samples.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of translating includes determining the velocity of the pointing device and translating it into a playback speed for successively playing back samples in the sequence.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of translating moderates the effect of changes in velocity of the pointing device on the rate of playback of the samples.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the pointing device is a mouse.

12. The method of claim 1 further including, before the step of presenting the first sample, determining the current position using a coarse timeline control.

13. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of, after an exit command, using the information from the pointing device to perform other position-sensitive operations.

14. A media composing system comprising:
storage for a sequence of samples,
a pointing device,

add A2
Add B

an output device responsive to the player module for presenting the samples to a user.